6 books that raise the curtain on art, racism, and protest

The Mint Museum <digital@mintmuseum.org>

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Mint

Come intrigued. Leave inspired.

6 art books that spotlight black artists, black history, and protest

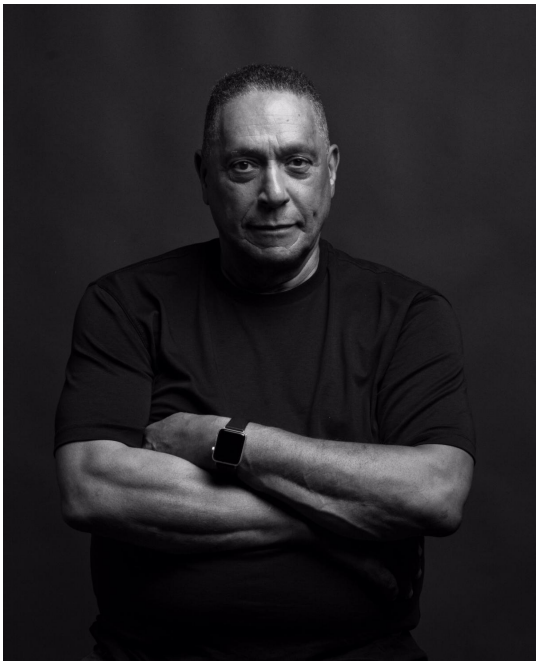
As society grapples with unrest around racism and protest, books about black artists and black history shine a spotlight on the struggles and accomplishments of black Americans throughout history.

Read

Craft a masterpiece at home

Find your artful side with these ideas for creating art at home. Each activity is based on an artwork in The Mint Museum collection.

Read



ICYMI: An artist Q+A with Juan Logan

Juan Logan uses his abstract paintings, sculptures, and mixed media pieces to start conversations about the interconnections of race, place, and power.

Read

Curators' Picks

We are sharing pieces from our galleries and collections to help bring peace and inspiration while we all practice social distancing. Our curators have chosen these pieces to give you the museum experience from home. To see more #CuratorsPicks, follow us on our social media channels.

Joyce J. Scott (American, 1948–). "Hunger," 1991, hand-beaded glass, thread, photographs, plastic. Gift of the Friends of the Mint. 1992.23. © Joyce J. Scott, 1991

Hunger. Born, raised, and based in Baltimore, Maryland, African American artist **Joyce J. Scott** confronts racism, sexism, classism, and other issues head-on in art made in a range of media. Her 1991 necklace *Hunger* addresses famine in Africa—a persistent problem in the 1980s and early 1990s—and white complicity in it. Hand-beaded skeletons and photographs of malnourished children are juxtaposed with a large white face that seems to look away, ignoring their suffering. *Hunger* is on view at Mint Museum Uptown. In the words of Joyce J. Scott, "I think art has the ability [to], if not cure or heal, at least enlighten, slap you in the head, wake you up."

Nick Cave (American, 1959–). "Soundsuit," 2007, fabricated, beaded, and sequined body suit, metal armature, metal Victorian flowers. Museum Purchase: Founders' Circle Annual Cause. 2009.19.1A-OOOOO. © Nick Cave

Soundsuit. Nick Cave's first *Soundsuit* was created in 1992 as a direct response to the shocking event of the brutal beating of Rodney King by 4 Los Angeles police officers and the riots there that followed. As a black man, Cave felt the injustice of racial profiling, recognizing that society dismissed and discarded African-Americans. He began collecting twigs, discarded objects he found at the railroad tracks, textiles and objects from flea markets and thrift shops, undervalued and unwanted things. Such materials became costumes complete with headdresses and masks to conceal the identity of the wearer. A "secondary skin" that disguises race, gender, and class," the Mint's *Soundsuit* is made up of a rainbow of multicultural embroideries and knitting, and a chandelier from a junk shop in Indiana.

Don't Miss This

- Rubie Britt-Height, The Mint Museum's Director of Community Relations, discusses **art as social commentary**. (QC@3)
- This Wednesday, the Levine Museum of the New South is hosting **an online panel discussion titled "What is it going to take?"** The panel discussion will touch on the history of law enforcement in the United States, and how the systems in place failed to protect George Floyd and countless other BIPOC.
- Hear **live music by local performers** streaming each day via Music Everywhere Charlotte.

Give us Your Feedback

Let us what you're thinking, what you'd like to see more of, and how we can share more of The Mint Museum with the Charlotte community. Email us at **digital@mintmuseum.org** with your ideas and feedback.

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The Mint Museum | Mint Museum UPTOWN at Levine Center for the Arts, 500 S. Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

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